GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1460
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has constituted a Committee on Communicationand Information Technology for the 10th Finance Commission(2002-07);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which this Committee is likely to submit its report?

(d) The broad terms of reference of this Committee

(e) Whether the Committee is also likely to consider the privatisation of postal service; and

(f) If so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF THE STATE THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) No, Sir. No Committee has been constituted in the Planning Commission on Communication and Information Technology for the Tenth Finance Commission (2002 – 2007). However, a Steering Committee on Communication and Information has been constituted for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07). The Committee shall make recommendations on various policy and programme requirements relevant to the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan for Telecom, Information Technology, Information & Broadcasting and Postal sectors.

(b) to (f) : A copy of the Notification constituting the Committee is appended.

No. 4(4)/35/2000-C&I
Government of India
Planning Commission
(C&I Division)

Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi – 110001
Dated : 21st, Dec. 2000

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Steering Committee on Communications and Information for the Tenth Five Year Plan(2002 – 07).

In the context of preparation Tenth Five Year Plan(2002-2007) it has been decided to constitute a Steering Committee on Communication and Information covering Telecom, Information Technology(IT), Information & Broadcasting(I&B) and Postal sectors to make recommendations on the various policy matters relevant to the formulation of the Tenth Five Year Plan .

II. The Composition of the proposed Steering Committee will be as follows:

1. Shri Montek Singh Ahluwalia Chairman
Member, Planning Commission

2. Shri R.P.Sinha Member
Principal Adviser
Planning Commission.

3. Shri Shyamal Ghosh Member
Secretary, Telecommunications

4. Shri Vinay Kohli Member
Secretary, Information Technology

5. Shri B.N. Som Member
Secretary, Posts

6. Shri Y.N. Chaturvedi Member
Secretary, Information & Broadcasting

7. Shri R.R. Shah Member
CEO, Prasar Bharti

8. Member (Technical), Telecom Commission Member

9. Member (Finance) Member
Telecom Commission

10. CMD Member
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

11. CMD Member
Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL)
12. CMD Member
Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)

13. Shri Gautam Soni, Member
Adviser,
Ministry of Information Technology

14. Shri Nirmal Singh Member -Secretary
Director (C&I)
Planning Commission

Non-officials

15. Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni Member
Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

16. Shri K. Harish or any other Member
representative of the Confederation of
Indian Industries (CII)

17. Shri Arun Kumar or any other representative of the Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industries of India — Member

18. Shri Dewang Mehta, President, NASSCOM — Member

19. Shri Alique Padamsee, Media person — Member

20. Shri T.N. Ninan, Editor, Business Standard — Member

21. Shri Nandan Nilkhani, Managing Director, Infosys Technologies — Member

22. Shri Pankaj Jalote, Professor & Head, Deptt. of Computer Science and Engineering, I.I.T. Kanpur. — Member

III. The Terms of Reference of the Committee will be –

Convergence and e-Governance

1. To take an integrated view of the development of telecommunications, IT and I&B sectors including the state of the industries, services and the technological developments in these areas; convergence of technology, delivery systems and applications and to determine the needs of the individual sectors as well as new services emerging out of convergence.

2. To assess the requirement of bandwidth for proper growth of IT and suggest ways and means for achieving the expansion of Internet in the country.

3. To suggest measures for promotion of e-governance at various levels in the Government starting from Gram Panchayat level and to suggest strategy to be adopted in this regard.

4. To suggest measures to address the issue of digital divide and taking the benefits of IT to the masses.

5. To suggest measures for ensuring seamless transition to convergence of IT, telecommunication and information and broadcasting sectors.

Information Technology Sector

6. To evolve the Approach for Information Technology sector for the Tenth Plan keeping in view the comparative advantage, strengths and weaknesses of the IT industry, international scenario including WTO regime and the national goal of making India an IT super power.

7. To assess year-wise capacity and production for the different sub-sectors of the IT industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-2007) in line with the perspective up to 2010 AD taking into account domestic requirements and export potential.

8. To make an assessment of the likely exports and imports taking into account the options available with respect to "make v/s buy" and also to assess year-wise projections for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

9. To estimate the investments required to be made in the public and private sector to achieve projections for the Tenth Five Year Plan.

10. To critically review the impact of the various policy measures already initiated, identifying the constraints and to suggest further policy framework to be adopted to achieve the set goals.

11. To examine the adequacy to the existing infrastructure facilities like Standardisation, Testing and Quality Assurance Centres, National and Regional Computer Centres, Components and Materials Development Centres, and Manpower Development and training centres etc. in areas of electronics, computer networks and networking centres etc. and to recommend steps for optimal utilisation of the existing facilities.

Telecommunications Sector

12. To evolve Approach on Telecom Sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the basic goal of development of world class telecom infrastructure to support accelerated growth of IT and other sectors of the economy, objectives of New Telecom Policy (1999), convergence of services and markets, international scenario in the wake of WTO/IPR regimes and other relevant factors.

13. To make recommendations on development of an appropriate system of telecom network in rural areas which should be affordable but self-financing and capable of supporting a multi-media system of communications.

14. To make recommendations on the further restructuring/reforms required in the telecom sector in the post - convergence scenario.

15. To suggest measures to be adopted for promoting private sector investment in the light of the experience gained so far and the requirement of funds for future growth.

16. To review the performance of telecom equipment manufacturing sector so far, identify the constraints and make recommendations for evolving an appropriate policy to ensure growth on the pattern of software sector.

Postal Sector

17. To evolve Approach on Postal Sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the strengths/weaknesses of Postal Sector, socio-economic needs of the country, objectives of providing world class postal services at affordable prices, international commitments of the country at Universal Postal Union, WTO etc.

18. To make recommendations on the restructuring/reforms required to make the Department of Posts self financing.

19. To make recommendations on extent of privatisation of services and need and form of regulation required.

20. Role of post offices in promoting/facilitating e-commerce and the process of certification.

21. To examine the issue of optimum utilization of land, buildings and other physical infrastructure including commercial exploitation of properties held by Departments in metros and big cities and suggest an appropriate action plan in this regard with a view to generate additional resources for financing plan expenditure.

Information and Broadcasting Sector

22. To evolve Approach to the Information and Broadcasting sector for the 10th Plan keeping in view the emerging trends in radio, television and IT enabled media applications.

23. To examine the extent to which expansion of transmission network is needed and the best way to provide the reach of radio and television signals to the uncovered areas.

24. To assess the total needs of investment in broadcasting infrastructure including that for content creation and to assess the extent of private investment that may come forward in the 10th Plan period and beyond and as to what steps should be taken to stimulate private investment.

25. To assess the human resources needed for the telecommunications, broadcasting, media, internet and IT and to suggest road map for making the same available.

26. To assess the status of the Film Industry and to suggest policy measures and other steps necessary to ensure production of good, socially relevant and aesthetically creative films.

27. To take a look at the needs of government publicity including sectoral publicity programmes and to re-assess institutional arrangements for bringing out Government publications, advertisements and media products.

IV. Any other item that the Planning Commission or the Steering Group, deemsnecessary to be included for making the recommendations useful.

V. The Steering Group may set up Working Groups to go into specific sectors or issuesfor detailed information gathering and analysis. The Chairman of the Steering Group maycoopt any person whose knowledge or expertise is considered to be useful to the Working Groups or the Steering Group and may invite any such person to specific meetings.

VI. The non-official members of the Committee will be paid TA / DAby Planning Commission as per SR 190 (a)for attending meetings of the Committee.

VII. The Steering Committee shall submit its report by 30th April 2001.

Sd/-
(T.R. MEENA)
Deputy Secretary (Admn.)

To

Chairman and Members of Working Group